considered for posing to the World Bank lor assistance.

Import of Sugar

3274. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposal to import sugar into the country was initiated is November, 1993 which was also reiterated by the Ministry of Civil Supplies;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the proposal was ignored by the Minister on the basis of the estimates of sugar production provided by sugar producing organisations which proved to be wrong at a later stage;

(c) if so, the reasons for relying on estimates furnished by private organisations in such a matter;

(d) whether it is a fact that delay in deciding the import of sugar has put the country to a great loss; and

(e) if so, the extent thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (e) As there was an increasing trend in sugar production during the initial months of 1993-94 sugar season as compared to the sugar production in the corresponding months of 1992-93 sugar season, it was considered at that stage that ways and means should be further explored to increase sugar production and control its consumption. However, when sugar production started declining as compared to the corresponding previous period, it was decided to allow duty-free import of sugar under Open General Licence (OGL). Thereafter, various private parties, as also public sector undertakings, namely, State Trading Corporation and Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation undertook the import of sugar under OGL as per their best commercial judgement.

Setting up sugar mills in Arunachal Pradesh

3275. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased, to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the Government of Arunachal Pradesh for setting up of sugar mills in the State;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government proposed to issue any letter of Intent to the applicants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (c) As on 30.6.1994, the following two applications have been received through the Department of Industrial Development for setting up of new sugar mills in the State of Arunachal Pradesh:—

Sl. N	Name of the applicant	Location	Sector
1.	Suit. Lino Ronya. TehsilDerak Distt. WestSiang. Shri Kamdu Taipondia.	At Kamba, At Linkabali Tehsil Linkabali Distt. WestSiang.	Private Joint
2.			

The Ministry of Industry, after due consideration, have issued prima-facie rejection letters to both the above applicants.

Reduction of levy sugar

3276. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during 1985 to 1992, levy sugar rate was reduced from 60 to 40 per cent bringing a net revenue of Rs. 400 crore to the industry and price of levy sugar was raised from Rs. 4/- per kg. to Rs. 9.05, adding Rs. 450 crore to the profits of the industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that prices of molasses have increased 5 to 6 times thereby giving additional benefit of Rs. 450 crore to the industry;

(d) if so, the reasons for sugar shortage, non-payment of dues to sugarcane growers and the sugar industry's still being in the red; and

(e) what corrective steps are being contemplated in view of these facts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) The levy free sale ratio in 1984-85 was 65:35 and in 1992-93 it was 40; 60. The issue price of levy sugar was fixed at Rs. 4.00 per kg. on 1.2.1984. The price with effect from 1.2.1994 is Rs. 9.05 per kg. The Ministry of Food does not maintain (he details regarding net revenue or profit/loss of sugar factories.

(c) As per details obtained from 188 Sugar Factories, the zone-wise average realisation from sale of molasses during 1993-94 season upto 31.3.1994 varied between Rs. 64.72 per quintal and Rs. 250 per quintal.

(d) The decline in sugar production during 1993-94 season could be attributed to higher diversion of cane to Gur and Khandsari sectors and fall in cane/sugar production in the major sugar producing State of Maharashtra. The responsibility for payment of cane price dues to sugarcane growers lies primarily with the State Governments who have the necessary powers and field organisations to enforce such payments. Losses could be due to a variety of factors, such as inadequate cane availability, size, age of plant and machinery, technical and managerial competence, excessively high cane price not commensurate with sales realisation and various other factors.

(e) The measures taken/initiated by the Government considering the need to boost sugar production during 1993-94 sugar season are as under:—

(i) Early-crushing incentives were announced in the form of higher freesale quota at 72%, as against the normal entitlement of 60%, to sugar mills for the production achieved during the period 1.10.1993 to 15.11.1993.

(ii) Mid-crushing incentives were announced in the form of higher freesale quota at 80%, as against the normal entitlement of 60%, to sugar mills for the additional/ incremental production to be achieved during the period 1.1.1994 to 30.4.1994 over the production during the same period in 1992-93 season.

(iii) Late-crushing incentives were announced in the form of higher freesale quota at 72%, as against the normal entitlement of 60%, to sugar mills for the production to be achieved during the period 1.5.1994 to 31.7.1994.

(iv) Incentives have been announced in the form of higher freesale quota at 100 %, as against the normal entitlement of 60 %, to sugar mills for the additional/ incremental production to be achieved during the period 1.8.1994 to 30.9.1994 over the production during the same period in 1992-93 season.

(v) State Governments have been requested to ensure prompt clearance of cane price dues to the farmers by the sugar factories.

(vi) The loan component for grant of Sugar Development Fund assistance for KT weirs and lift irrigation schemes has been enhanced from 66.6% to 90% of the project cost.

(vii) The Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) for sugarcane for 1993-94 season has been announced at Rs. 34.50 per quintal linked to a basic recovery of 8.5 %, as against Rs. 31/- per quintal for 1992-93 season. An advance announcement of SMP for 1994- 95 season has also been made at Rs. 37/- per quintal linked to a basic recovery of 8.5%.

(viii) The incentives schemes for new sugar factories and expansion projects has been suitably revised.

(ix) State Governments have been requested to consider various measures to contain diversion of cane to Gur and Khandsari Units.

केन्द्रीय पूल के लिए खरीदी गई गेहूं

3277. श्री रामजी लाल: क्या खाद्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) हरियाणा राज्य से केन्द्रीय पूल के लिए अब तक कितनी गेहूं खरीदी गई है;

(ख) क्या केन्द्रीय एजेन्सियां खरीदने के बाद तुरन्त अनाज मण्डियों से गेहूं नहीं उठाती है;